



Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association, Inc.

- ◆ Custom Brokers & International Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State
- ◆ Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
- ◆ Custom Brokers & Forwarders Assn. of Northern California
- ◆ Los Angeles Customs & Freight Brokers Assn. ◆ San Diego District Customs Brokers Assn.

December 11, 2014

Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol Street NW  
Washington, dc 20573-0001

Attn: Karen V. Gregory  
Secretary

Subject: *Docket No. 13-05, Amendments to Regulations Governing Ocean Transportation Intermediary Licensing and Financial Responsibility Requirements, and General Duties.*

Dear Ms. Gregory,

The PCC, like the NCBFAA, is pleased that the Commission recognized the validity of the concerns and objections expressed by the PCC and 80 other entities which filed Comments concerning the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) in this Docket, last year. Frankly, we're all still scratching our heads over that proposal to expend considerable resources to solve a problem which doesn't appear to exist. So the PCC joins the rest of the industry in expressing our relief to see the FMC make an effort to get back on track with the present Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

The Commission can and does play an important role in international ocean shipping regulation, as it has demonstrated recently with its intervention on behalf of the shipping public -- discouraging ocean carriers from imposing Congestion Surcharges at precisely the moment when US exporters and importers are suffering great, and in some cases permanent, injury due to the West Coast port disruption. That is the role we believe Congress intended that the FMC should play; so we are pleased that proposals to divert limited Commission resources towards expanded OTI regulation have been reconsidered and largely rescinded.

The PCC is pleased to support, in their entirety the Comments submitted on the ANPRM by the NCBFAA. And while expressing relief that the most onerous provisions of the ANPRM have been withdrawn, the PCC emphasizes its agreement with the NCBFAA's concerns about the continuing proposal to require license renewal, the review process and the requirement to report claims. We ask the Commission to seriously consider the NCBFAA's recommendations, and to revise the Proposed Rule accordingly. Doing so would go far towards demonstrating that the current leadership of the Commission respects the President's Executive Order 13563 aimed at reducing (not increasing) regulatory costs and burdens. The NCBFAA's present recommendations in the ANPRM, if adopted, would bring the Commission closer to compliance with that Executive Order, from which it had (in its ANPRM) wandered so far.

The PCC appreciates the opportunity to convey its views to the Commission. Like the NCBFAA, the PCC believes this Proposed Rule, even as modified, is sufficiently unnecessary and threatening that we will continue to bring it to the attention of other federal agencies with jurisdiction as well as our elected officials.

We request that the Commission retract the Proposed Rulemaking.

Respectfully submitted,



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On behalf of the Pacific Coast Council for  
Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders  
Association Inc.